The State Government of Assam have registered cases against each incident and investigations are in progress to apprehend the involved militants.

NHRC directions to States regarding Mentally Retarded Patients

668. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NHRC has directed the States and UTs to ensure that no mentally ill patient is kept in chains in any mental hospital, after some States failed to comply with the report in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons for issuance of such a direction;

(c) the names of the States which have not complied with such a report; and

(d) the action taken against such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has requested all the States/UTs to certify that no mentally ill patient is kept in chains in any of their Mental Hospitals.

(b) In the light of the incident which took place on 6.8.2001 in which 28 inmates of Badhusha Private Mental Asylum in Erwadi in Ramanathapuram District (Tamilnadu) lost their lives in a fire, the commission felt it necessary to obtain certificates from Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs that no mentally ill patient is kept in chains in any of the mental hospitals in the State/UT.

(c) Certificates of compliance are awaited from the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

(d) The States mentioned in (c) above were reminded on 6.2.2002 to send the requisite certificates immediately.

Private Security Agencies

669. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive plan has been drawn up to regulate the activities of mushrooming private security agencies functioning in the capital

and other parts of the country, in view of the reported involvement of some personnel of these agencies in crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

In order to provide for the regulation of private security guards and agencies, the Private Security Guards and Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 1994 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 1994. The Bill is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

Stagnation of sepoys working in S.S.B.

†670. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sepoys working in S.S.B. have been stagnating on the same post for more than 20 years and have not been promoted even after taking J.C.C. training;

(b) whether Government propose to bring these employees under A.C.P. scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The promotion in any cadre depends upon the availability of vacancies in the higher grade. Accordingly, eligible Sepoys in SSB have been promoted to fill up the available vacancies in higher grade.

(b) and (c) ACP Scheme has already been introduced in SSB.

ISI Network

671. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI tentacles deep and wide" as reported in the Statesman dated the 15th January, 2002;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.